

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01390 030700Z

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: JA, PINT

SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVES WIN FIVE MORE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVES WON ALL FIVE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 30 AND FEBRUARY 2. LDP IS ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS AND ANY FURTHER LOCAL LEVEL VICTORIES SEEM LIKELY TO INCREASE AND ANY FURTHER GENERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. LDP-BACKED INCUMBENTS WON ALL FIVE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 30 AND FEBRUARY 2. PREFECTURAL WINNERS WERE: (A) NARA-RYOZO OKUDA (7TH TERM), (B) YAMANASHI-KUNIO TANABE (3RD TERM), UOICHI NAKANISHI (4TH TERM), AND (E) KUMAMOTO - ISSEI SAWADA (2ND TERM). ONLY REQL CONTEST WAS IN YAMANASHI PREFECTURE, WHERE JSP, JCP AND KOMEITO JOINED FORCES TO BACK REFORMIST CANDIDATE. EVEN HERE VOTE MARGIN WAS 43,000. IN NARA, JOINT JSP-KOMEITO CANDIDATE TRAILED WINNER BY 67,000 VOTES

AND JCP FINISHED DISTANT 3RD. IN AOMORI, AGAINST SAME PARTY LINEUP, LDP WIN WAS EVEN BIGGER. AND ISHIKAWA AND KUMAMOTO, WHERE ONLY OPPOSITION CAME FROM COMMUNISTS,

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01390 030700Z

CONA SERVATIVE VICTORIES WERE COMPELETELY ONE - SIDED.

3. INCLUDING EHIME WIN ON JANUARY 26, CONSERVATIVES HAVE WON EVERY GUBERNATORIAL WIN ON JANUARY 26, CONSERVATIVES HAVE WON EVERY GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION HELD SINCE ADVENT OF MIKI GOVERNMENT. COUNTING ALL GUBERNATORIAL CONTESTS SINCE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION OF ONE NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE LDP BUFFETING IN LAST SUMMER'S HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION, HELD IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS WELL TO KEEP IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT ALMOST ALL OF THESE SUCCESSES HAVE COME IN CONSERVATIVE STRONGHOLDS AND AGAINST BADLY ORGANIZED OR ALMOST NON-EXISTANT OPPOSITION. MOREOVER, ATTEMPTING TO UTILIZE LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS IN ASSESSING PARTY CHANCES IN DIET ELECTIONS IS HAZARDOUS BUSINESS AT BEST. STILL, HARD TO DEFINE POLITICAL MOOD SEEMS TO BE RUNNING IN FAVOR OF LDP, AND MOST COMMENTATORS FEEL THAT GUBERNATORIAL WINS AT LEAST IN PART INDICATED PUBLIC'S ENDORSEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI. LDP IS MUCH ENCOURAGED BY APPARENT TREND, AND THERE IS GOOD DEAL OF SPECULATION THAT IF CONSERVATIVE WINS FEBRUARY 9 AICHI GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST, CHANCES THAT MIKI WILL CALL FOR EARLY GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED.
HODGSON

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